

HONORING THE 36TH DOUBLE CHAI ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH KODESH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Temple Beth Kodesh of Boynton Beach, Florida, on the occasion of their 36th Double Chai Anniversary. Temple Beth Kodesh has become an integral part of our vibrant, diverse community in South Florida, and it is truly an honor to represent its congregants here in Washington.

Temple Beth Kodesh comes from humble beginnings. In 1976, a small group of Jewish residents in Boynton Beach began holding services in each other's apartments in Village Royale on the Green. Less than a decade later in 1983, with the help of generous donations from members of the community, construction of Congregation Beth Kodesh was completed.

The story of Temple Beth Kodesh is also one of perseverance in the face of hardship. In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne destroyed the temple and much of the surrounding area. Although devastated by the loss, congregants worked tirelessly to restore and reopen the synagogue in time for the 2005 high holidays.

Temple Beth Kodesh has thrived due to the dedication and hard work of its living past Presidents Leo Birdie, George Brindis, Fred Brown, Mike Friedland, Roy Haas, Irwin Hochman and Bob Rosenthal. I am proud to represent constituents who have dedicated the last 36 years to bringing Jewish Americans together to worship. I commend their efforts, and it is my hope that Temple Beth Kodesh continues to serve the South Florida community for years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 36th commemoration of Black History Month. This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great Nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our Nation become a more perfect union. The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose strug-

gles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American women in shaping our Nation's history. As such, this Black History Month we honor groundbreaking "Black Women in American Culture and History" like U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

RECOGNIZING MR. JASON PIERRE-PAUL AS A SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Jason Pierre-Paul, a defensive end for the New York Giants. Known by his family, friends, and fans as JPP, Jason played a pivotal role in the 2011 season for the Giants and helped lead his team to victory over the New England Patriots at this year's Super Bowl.

JPP was born in Deerfield Beach, Florida and attended Deerfield Beach High School, which is located in Florida's 23rd congressional district. Originally a basketball star, after suffering a serious leg injury, he transitioned to football during his junior year of high school. Despite being new to the sport, he went on to play college football at the University of South Florida. After an impressive college career, he was drafted by the Giants in the first round of the 2010 National Football League (NFL) Draft.

Without JPP leading the team with 16.5 sacks this season and being the steadiest defense player throughout the year, the Giants would not have been crowned Super Bowl

champions. One of the lasting images of this game will undoubtedly be JPP's celebration with his father. When he was an infant, his father, Mr. Jean Pierre-Paul, lost his vision and therefore has never been able to watch his son play football. Super Bowl XLVI was the first NFL game that Jean had ever attended. Their celebratory embrace on the field after the game was truly an emotional event to see.

It is these kinds of moments that illustrate the strength and courage that our children admire in athletes. JPP's parents emigrated from Haiti in 1983, and overcame many obstacles to ensure that he had every chance to succeed in life. Learning from his father, JPP overcame injuries and a lack of experience to become a Super Bowl champion.

After his win, JPP said, "It was awesome to experience this in just my second year." "Man, it's a blessing. We just got to stay humble as a team and see what the future holds for us."

Mr. Speaker, Jason Pierre-Paul's personal story highlights the promise of our great Nation. People from all backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve tremendous success in life. It is my distinct honor to commend JPP on all of his accomplishments and for his Super Bowl win.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday afternoon (Tuesday, February 7th) and missed rollcall votes 40–42. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40 (the Tonko Amendment to H.R. 3581, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act) and 41 (motion to recommit H.R. 3581), and "no" on rollcall vote 42 (final passage of H.R. 3581).

COMMENDATION OF ALESCIA MARABOUSHONTRELL HOLLOWELL

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alescia Maraboushontrell Hollowell for her scholastic achievement, community service, and being named Miss Black Michigan USA 2012.

Ms. Hollowell, a native Detroit, served as class vice-president and graduated magna cum laude from Cass Technical High School in 2005. While a student at Michigan State University, Ms. Hollowell was a Ronald McNair Scholar, peer mentor, and Dance Team member. Ms. Hollowell made the Dean's List and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science—Health Studies. Currently, Ms. Hollowell is a full-time graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.

As Miss Black Michigan USA 2012, Ms. Hollowell works with girls to address issues of body image, self-esteem, and teenage obesity.